

STATE POLICE DETECTIVE UNIT (SPDU)



The State Police Detective Unit assigned to the DPPC (SPDU) is comprised of a Lieutenant, Sergeant and three troopers and became fully operational on May 1, 1998. The operation of the SPDU is a two-fold approach articulated in M.G.L. 19C. This approach emphasizes that all necessary protective services are to be provided to the alleged victim to ensure that she/he remains safe from risk of harm, and secondly, that a prompt criminal investigation is undertaken.

The SPDU evaluates each abuse report made to the DPPC Hotline. The evaluation includes reviewing each allegation to determine whether a crime may have occurred. The reviews can take minutes, hours or days depending on the situation. When the allegations are of a criminal nature the SPDU obtains necessary facts regarding the victim and perpetrator prior to making a referral to the appropriate District Attorney's office. If interviews are necessary, the SPDU may conduct them. In every situation, the safety of the victim and other individuals involved is the primary concern. In many situations a member of the SPDU will be asked to assist with an investigation. Both civil investigators and other law enforcement officials make these requests.

The SPDU recognizes a need for the training of law enforcement professionals in their mandated reporting requirements under M.G.L. c. 19C and the workings of the Disabled Persons Protection Commission. To meet this need, the SPDU participates in the provision of in-service training at Criminal Justice Training Council locations throughout the Commonwealth. The SPDU has also been involved in training recruit classes for the Training Council and at the Massachusetts State Police Academy.

If you suspect abuse or neglect of persons with disabilities, call:

DPPC 24-HOUR HOTLINE
1-800-426-9009